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# LAFIA: PEOPLE AT PEACE

## RESILIENCE TO CONFLICT & VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Lafia builds resilience to conflict and violent extremism with communities in southern Mali. Through a people-to-people approach bringing together political, religious, youth and marginalized group leaders from different ethnic groups, Lafia increases local capacities to counter the drivers of conflict and extremism.

**Objective 1:** Lafia works with rural and urban youth to reduce their susceptibility to participation in conflict and violent extremism. Lafia supports youth associations and vulnerable individuals to analyze and address the drivers of conflict through mapping, “Sports for Change” activities and peacebuilding projects that help youth become meaningful participants in dispute resolution and advocacy for peace.

**Objective 2:** Lafia bolsters the capacity of political, traditional, religious and female leaders to resolve inter-group conflicts peacefully and to reduce the drivers of conflict. Linked activities strengthen existing dispute resolution structures, build skills in negotiation and mediation, help to develop and adapt Early Warning and Early Response mechanisms, elevate the role of youth and women in conflict management, and facilitate joint violence prevention planning and action across conflict-affected groups.

**Objective 3:** Lafia supports the engagement of local communities with relevant government authorities and civil society actors in the implementation of national policies designed to prevent violent extremism and promote reconciliation.

**BUDGET TO DATE:** \$1,684.850

**PROJECT CYCLE:** 2019-2021

**TARGET AREAS:** Kayes and Bamako

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:**  
Mercy Corps

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- 1,286 youth trained in social or leadership skills.
- The proportion of people in target communities believing that there has been improvement in the capacity of key actors to manage conflict has risen from a baseline of 60% to 87%.
- The proportion of people in target communities who report receiving information on national policies is up from a baseline of 54% to 71%.
- A charter to end hereditary slavery practices in the region of Kayes has been signed by all key stakeholders including the Governor, Prefectural officials, diaspora associations, and women and youth associations.